

Message Text

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43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-11 DRC-01 RSC-01 AID-20 IGA-02

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R 060551Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7723

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 0928

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXB, NP

SUBJ: WATER AND SEWAGE PROJECTS IN GREATER KATHMANDU AND POKHARA

REF: A) STATE 239261; B) KATHMANDU 5103

1. CHARLES LARRICK, VICE PRESIDENT, ENGINEERING SCIENCES INC., MET WITH EMBASSY ECON OFFICER MARCH 4 TO DISCUSS HIS FIRM'S BID TO DO DESIGN WORK FOR KATHMANDU VALLEY WATER AND SEWAGE PROJECT. LARRICK NOW BELIEVES HIS FIRM IS IN BEST POSITION TO LAND CONTRACT. ACCORDING LARRICK'S INFORMATION, BINNEY OF UK HAS APPARENTLY ALIENATED GON BY SUBMITTING BID WHICH WAS UNDULY HIGH, AND WHICH INCLUDED COSTS WHICH BINNEY HAD ALREADY BEEN COMPENSATED FOR IN CONNECTION WITH ITS COMMITMENT TO DO PREFEASIBILITY STUDY. CORE AND STOREY OF CANADA AND SWECO OF SWEDEN ARE EVIDENTLY STILL IN RUNNING, BUT LARRICK SAID THAT CANADIAN FIRM HAD NO EXPERIENCE IN WATER AND SEWAGE FIELD AND ITS BID, WHICH APPARENTLY WAS LOWEST, WAS ABOUT TO BE DISCARDED BY GON. LARRICK BELIEVED THAT SWECO BIG WAS TOO "EXOTIC" FOR NEPAL'S PURPOSES.

2. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH LARRICK, EMBASSY ECON OFFICER CALLED WATER RESOURCES AND POWER SECRETARY RAJBHANDARI TO ASK WHEN GON DECISION ON CONTRACT FOR DESIGN WORK WOULD BE MADE. RAJBHANDARI SAID GON WAS PRESENTLY HARD AT WORK REVIEWING SUBMISSIONS AND HOPED TO REACH DECISION BY MARCH 10.

HE SAID HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF ENGINEERING SCIENCES INTEREST

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IN DOING DESIGN WORK, AND PROMISED TO NOTIFY EMBASSY AS SOON AS

GON DECISION TAKEN. RAJBHANDARI ALSO EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION
FOR ASSISTANCE THAT EMBASSY AND USG HAD GIVEN HIM IN VISITING
INTERNATIONAL RIVER PROJECTS WHILE IN WASHINGTON RECENTLY
TO NEGOTIATE IBRD LOAN FOR SEWAGE PROJECT.
CARGO

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